

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Searching for existence is actually one of human efforts in building his meaning of life. Someone can find the meaning of life when he thinks that he manages to actualize his idealism. By actualizing his idealism, man can find his identity. In the scope of the society, then his existence will be built. The existence of a man can be seen from two sides. From the outside view, a man appears to be just another natural creature while from the inside view, he is an entirely independent universe, the center of his own infinity. Man is equal, but every human has his own world existentially, which differ him from other individual. This only understandable in the term of individual's existence, his particular experience of life. Thus, to understand a man, somebody cannot merely appreciate him from his physical appearance.

In etymology concept the word "existence" comes from the Latin word *existere* means "to appear", "to arise", "to become", or "to be", but literally, it means "to stand out". Everyone has their own existence, the existence is as the sigh of his purpose, the purpose is what he wants to become. The search for existence also appears in the major character of *Red* movie directed by Robert Schwentke.

*Red* is a 2010 American action comedy film inspired by the three-issue comic book series of the same name created by Warren Ellis and Cully

Hamner, and published by the DC Comics imprint *Homage*. The film stars Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, Helen Mirren, and Karl Urban with Robert Schwentke directing a screenplay by Jon Hoeber and Erich Hoeber. The screenplay of this movie is based on the cult D.C. comics graphic novels written by Warren Ellis and Cully Hamner with the same title. Warren Ellis was born on 16 February 1968, he is an English author of comics, novel and television, who is well-known for socio-cultural commentary, both through his online presence and through his writing, which covers transhumanist themes (most notably nanotechnology, cryonics, mind transfer, and human enhancement). He is a resident of Southend-on-Sea, England.

On June 12, 2008, the front page of *The Hollywood Reporter* announced that Summit Entertainment had optioned *Red* (2003), Ellis's thriller with artist Cully Hamner, as a feature film. Whitehouse screenwriters Eric and Jon Hoeber wrote the adaptation, directed by Robert Schwentke of *The Time Traveler's Wife* and produced by Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Mark Vahradian of *Transformers*. Principal photography began in January 2010 in Toronto and Louisiana with stars Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman.

The first quarter of 2009 saw the release of *G.I. Joe: Resolute*, a series of webisodes written by Warren Ellis and later released on DVD in December. He worked with D'Israeli again in 2010-2011 for a one-off comic, *SVK*, to be published by BERG, a London consultancy firm. It uses a UV torch to reveal the thoughts of the characters in the story.

*Red* is not a popular novel. Thus, Warren Ellis warned in a blog post dated December 8, 2009 — not long before the movie version of his book RED would begin shooting — Ellis talked about how the book and the movie were destined to be distant cousins. He explained that if he were to film 66 pages of comic's, he might just get about 40 minutes of film out of the comic's. Ellis says that 40 minutes is not enough to be a feature film.

Ellis wants to incorporate screenwriters Jon and Erich Hoeber, producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura and director Robert Schwentke, a creative team that set out to turn Ellis' beloved 66-page into an action vehicle for star Bruce Willis. As he found out on a visit to the set of *Red* last month, it is indeed very different. And while fans of the book would be called to instant alarm by the word "change," Ellis set out to give the process a chance. And after thirty minutes spent with producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura, he has got a pretty good idea of what this new, cinematic version of Red will look like. And he got a feeling that the audience will be pleasantly surprised. So he makes outline some of the book-to-screen changes for the audience and the comics lovers, based on the conversation that he shared with di Bonaventura and several other journalists.

The movie is produced by Summit Entertainments, and distributed by Di Bonaventura Pictures and DC Comics. This movie has 115 minutes duration. It was first release in 1507 Magazines Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA at 15 October 2010 and received positively by audiences and also obtained good rating from movie critics.

*Red* (2010) is directed by Robert Schwentke. Schwentke was born on 1968. He is a German film director best known for the films *Tattoo* (2002) and *Flightplan* (2005). In addition to this film, he is well known for his work on movies such as *Eierdiebe* (2003), *The Time Traveler's Wife* (2009), *Red* (2010), and *R.I.P.D.* (2013).

The movie's estimated budget is \$58,000,000 and it gained \$21,761,408 in its opening weekend in the USA on 17 October 2010. This movie describes a retired old man. He is retired, bored, and lonely, living off his government pension in a nondescript suburb in an equally nondescript house. *Red* (2010) combines drama, romance, action, and comedy in one movie. This film shows the rise of the spirit of Frank Moses, who lived in his lonely old days because of the presence of a woman who works in the government pension processing center. He is also a retired CIA operative, hunted by his own people, and reunites his old team for one last mission: save themselves from the people who would kill him. The lesson taught by this movie is to respect an old person and use the best for your times. The title is derived from the designation of the status of agent Frank Moses (Bruce Willis), meaning "Retired, Extremely Dangerous".

This film tells about Frank Moses (Bruce Willis), a former black-ops CIA agent, who is retired and living a quiet life in Cleveland, Ohio. However, he begins to feel lonely and often chats on the phone with Sarah (Mary-Louise Parker), a customer service agent working for Frank's pension office in Kansas City. He creates opportunities to talk to her by tearing up his pension checks and calling her to say they had never arrived.

His life is disrupted when a hit squad raids his house in the middle of the night. Frank kills the assassins and, knowing they would have tapped his phone, goes to Kansas City to protect Sarah. She becomes Frank's reluctant companion while he tries to find out who is trying to kill him, and track down his old black ops team for help. Meanwhile, CIA agent William Cooper (Karl Urban) is assigned to hunt and kill Frank.

Frank kidnaps Sarah, keeping her tied up and gagged in his car and then at the hotel, first goes to New Orleans to find his mentor Joe Matheson (Morgan Freeman), currently living in a retirement community and terminally ill, who tells him that the hit squad Frank killed were also responsible for the murder of a New York Times reporter. While avoiding Cooper, Frank and Sarah find clues left behind by the deceased reporter, which leads them to a hit list. They then track down Marvin Boggs (John Malkovich), also a former black ops agent and a paranoid conspiracy theorist, to provide more information. Marvin tells them that the names on the list are all connected to a 1981 secret mission in Guatemala in which Frank and Marvin participated, and that one person, Gabriel Singer (James Remar), is still alive. The trio tracks down Singer, who tells them that the mission involved extracting a person from a village and that everybody on the list has been killed to silence them. Singer is then assassinated by a helicopter-borne sniper, and the team makes their escape as Cooper closes in. With the help of Russian secret agent Ivan Simanov (Brian Cox), Frank and Sarah infiltrate the CIA headquarters to steal the file but Frank is injured in the process after fighting with Cooper. Joe,

having escaped an attempt on his life, helps extract the team and joins them, and they all hide out in Victoria's (Helen Mirren) house for first aid. Victoria, who misses her old life as a wetwork agent, joins the team as well.

After reviewing the file, all the team can figure out is that the only man involved on the reporter's list but not in the file, Alexander Dunning (Richard Dreyfuss), has some way of protecting himself. The team arrives at Dunning's house, where he reveals under interrogation that the mission was to extract Vice-President Robert Stanton (Julian McMahon), who at the time was a young lieutenant who experienced a breakdown and massacred the occupants of the village. It becomes apparent that Stanton is trying to erase all the loose ends as he plans to run for president. At that moment, Cooper and the FBI surround Dunning's mansion. Cooper tries to negotiate Frank's surrender, but Frank tells Cooper about the vice-president's treachery, which shakes his faith. Joe sacrifices himself by taking Frank's place and pretending to give up. An unknown sniper kills Joe as he leaves the mansion, despite Cooper's order to hold fire. The confusion buys the team enough time to escape, but Sarah is captured. Frank calls Cooper and threatens his family if Sarah is harmed, and says that he intends to kill Stanton.

The team, along with Ivan (revealed to be Victoria's former lover), infiltrate Stanton's fundraising gala in Chicago and successfully kidnap him despite Cooper's best efforts to stop them. Frank calls Cooper and says he is willing to trade Stanton for Sarah. At the meeting point, Dunning arrives and reveals that he is the mastermind behind the assassinations and that Stanton

was merely a pawn and scapegoat. Cooper's handler, Cynthia Wilkes (Rebecca Pidgeon), is also in on the plot. Disgusted with Dunning and Wilkes' greed and corruption and being used by her and Dunning, Cooper gives Frank the key to his handcuffs and shoots Wilkes while Marvin and Victoria kill Dunning's bodyguards, and Frank crushes Dunning's windpipe. Cooper agrees to let Frank and his team go. As they leave the scene, Frank and Sarah are eager to start a new life together. The final scene shows Frank and Marvin in Moldova, fleeing from Moldovan Army troops with a stolen nuclear device, in a wooden wheelbarrow with Marvin wearing a dress being pushed by Frank, as part of returning a favor to Ivan for his help.

*Red* (2010) is a very great movie. There are four reasons why the writer is interested in studying this film: first reason is because this movie is so good movie, the second reason is because this film is starred by Bruce Willis as Major Character, the third reason is because *Red* movie used many beautiful locations as the place settings, and the last reason is because the film is unique.

The first reason why the writer chooses this film is because this film is so good. This film tells about the comeback of Frank's spirit when he finds the girl who works in Pension office, and they are started to make conversation by phone. And then, both of them admire each other.

The second reason is because this film starred by Bruce Willis. Bruce Willis is a man who dedicated so much for his responsibility. He is a man who is very gifted by the God to be a star movie. His acting is so nice. And also, he

is so handsome. The third reason is because *Red* (2010) movie uses many locations in many country when take the picture for this movie. It shows many beautiful locations only in one movie. This film is taking on places like Cleveland Ohio, New York, the great city that have Liberty Statue, Kansas, New Orleans Louisiana, New York Chinatown, Pensacola Florida, Guatemala-San Benito, Alabama, Virginia, Chicago, and the last is Moldova. All of that have the unique things to be admired.

The fourth reason is this movie starring many actors and actress who are so dedicated in the each era and have perfection of character and characterization in. Beside Bruce Willis, this film also stared by Marie Louise Parker whom has received several nominations and the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in 2006. Hellen Mirren who has won an Academy Award for Best Actress, four SAG Awards, four BAFTAs, three Golden Globes, four Emmy Awards, and two Cannes Film Festival Best Actress Awards and also Morgan Freeman which also a director besides an actor. Freeman has won so many awards, Such as; Oscar; Winning Best Supporting Actors in the *Street Smart* on 1987, Oscar winning best actor for his role as a chauffeur, in *Driving Miss Daisy* on 1989, seeded \ Oscar for best actor, in *The Shawshank Redemption* on 1994, Receive Crystal Globe award for artistic contribution to world cinema at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival on 2003, Won Oscar Best Supporting Actor, in *Million Dollar Baby* on 2005, guest of honor Cairo International Film Festival in 2006), John Malkovich which is also multi talented. Besides as an actor, Malkovich is a



director of many movie, writer of novel entitled *Hideous Man* (2002), and the producer of the movie version Brian Cox (An actor and rector). Furthermore, this film also starring by good actresses and actors who are so gifted such as: Karl Urban, Julian McMahon, Ernest Borgnine, Richard Dreyfuss, James Remar, and Rebecca Pidgeon.

Based on the phenomenon above, the writer analyzes it using existentialist approach, the title of the research is: **SEARCH FOR EXISTENCE OF FRANK MOSES IN *RED* MOVIE DIRECTED BY ROBERT SCHWENTKE (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

After looking for several literary reviews in the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer has not found the research about *Red* movie done by the other researchers, so this research is the first study that ever constructed on the *Red* (2010) movie in the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

## **C. Problem Statement**

Problem statement is essential for the research because it makes the study be clearer and more focus. Based on the title and the background of study, the writer formulates the problem statement as follow “How is search for existence of Frank Moses in *Red* movie directed by Robert Schwentke?

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the writer proposes the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Red*(2010) movie that helps the writer to identify how the movie explains the existence of Frank Moses in his life.
2. To analyze the film based on an Existentialist approach that helps the writer to describe Frank's meaning of life.

#### **E. Limitation of the Study**

To make the researcher be appropriate to the objective of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. She will only focus on the problem of Frank's existence that is described in the movie *Red*, and focuses on Sartre's theories of existentialism.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study which are expected from this study are as follow:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. By doing this research paper, the writer wants to give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly studies on Robert Schwentke's *Red*.

- b. The result of this research can give deeper understanding in literary study as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing literary works using existentialist approach.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

Practically, the researcher hopes this study will support the readers who want to analyze Robert Schwentke's *Red* (2010). The result of the study contributes to philosophical approach especially Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism.

## **G. Research Method**

In this research, the writer analyzes Robert Schwentke's *Red* (2010). There are five elements that should be taken in this research, they are:

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this study, the writer uses qualitative research, because in analyzing the novel the writer does not need a statistic data and calculation and the writer analyzes the data coming from the script of *Red* (2010) movie by using methodology of literature as the reference. It aims at analyzing the movie using existentialism approach.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *Red* (2010) directed by Robert Schwentke released on 15 October 2010 in 1507 Magazines Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

### 3. Type of the Data and Data Source

The primary data source is the *Red* (2010) movie directed by Robert Schwentke. The secondary data are taken from several references such as essays, articles, commentaries, website about the *Red* (2010) movie, reader's review, and others even about the author or existentialist material to support the subject matter.

### 4. Technique of the Data Collection

- a. Watching the movie.
- b. Reading some related books to find out the theory.
- c. Reading Script
- d. Taking Note
- e. Classifying the data
- f. Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with movie, such as film's subtitles, identity, response of the public, etc.
- g. Coding the data that is suitable with the movie.

001/R/D1/00:05:50

Note:

001: number of data

R: Red

D1: disc 1

00:05:50: time

## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses descriptive qualitative techniques in analyzing the data to give an interpretation of the text. The writer analyzes the searchingfor existence of Frank MosesIn *Red*Movie Directed by Robert Schwentke(2010).